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Oswald note order denied

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The former head of the FBI's Dallas bureau Thursday denied ordering the destruction of a threatening note which Lee Harvey Oswald delivered to the bureau shortly before assassinating President John F. Kennedy.

J. Gordon Shanklin, who retired in June, told a House judiciary subcommittee that he did not recall meeting with agent James P. Hosty and the agent's supervisor, Kenneth Howe, about the matter.

Hosty has said Shanklin ordered the note destroyed during a meeting on the night of Nov. 24, the day Oswald was killed and two days after the Kennedy murder.

Nanny Lee Fenner, the bureau's receptionist at the time of the assassination, said a former agent, Ural Horton, told her last April that he mentioned the note to Shanklin in 1973 while riding in a car. She quoted Horton as saying Shanklin "nearly jumped out of the car window."

Shanklin denied having the conversation with Horton. He said he first heard of the note when asked about it last July by Thomas Johnson, publisher of the Dallas Times Herald.

Shanklin acknowledged under questioning that he had been reprimanded by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for his handling of the Oswald matter because "Hoover was of the opinion that we should have disseminated the fact that a defector was in the area." Oswald had lived in Russia for a while.